CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A method comprising:

logging into a remote computer by way of a management processor to initiate a remote console session; and

switching between a default remote console session and a non-default remote console session.

2. The method of claim 1, wherein the default remote console session is a hardware-based remote console session and the non-default remote console session is a software-based remote console session.

3. The method of claim 1, wherein the default remote console session is a software-based remote console session and the non-default remote console session is a hardware-based remote console session.

4. The method of claim 1, wherein the default remote console session is adjustable between a hardware-based remote console session and a software-based remote console session.

5. The method of claim 1, wherein switching further comprises:

determining availability of the default remote console session;

disabling the non-default remote console session; and

enabling the default remote console session.

6. The method of claim 1, wherein the logging step further comprises logging into the management processor comprising an application-specific integrated circuit, a microcontroller and a memory for communication between the remote computer and the management processor.

7. A system comprising:

a host computer comprising:

a CPU;

a memory coupled to the CPU, the memory containing programs executable by the CPU; and

a system management processor coupled to the CPU and the memory;

a remote computer coupled to the system management processor by way of a communication network;

wherein the remote computer accesses the host computer by way of the system management processor to initiate a hardware-based remote console session; and

wherein the system management processor switches to a software-based remote console session from the hardware-based remote console session.

8. The system of claim 7, wherein the remote computer further comprises a terminal services applet program and a remote console applet program, the terminal services applet supporting software-based remote console sessions and the remote console applet supporting hardware-based remote console sessions.

9. The system of claim 8, wherein switching to a software-based remote console session causes the remote console applet program to enable the terminal services applet program.

10. The system of claim 8, wherein the system management processor controls the terminal services applet program and the remote console applet program.

11. The system of claim 7, wherein the memory further comprises programs that implement software-based remote console sessions.

12. The system of claim 7, wherein the system management processor comprises an application-specific integrated circuit and implements hardware-based remote console sessions.

13. The system of claim 7, wherein the system management processor confirms availability of the software-based remote console session, disables the hardware-based remote console session and enables the software-based remote console session.

14. A computer system comprising a means for providing remote console to the computer system, wherein the means for providing switches to a default remote console session from a non-default remote console session.

15. The computer system of claim 14, wherein the default remote console session is a hardware-based remote console session and the non-default remote console session is a software-based remote console session.

16. The computer system of claim 14, wherein the default remote console session is a software-based remote console session and the non-default remote console session is a hardware-based remote console session.

17. The computer system of claim 14, wherein the default remote console session is adjustable between a software-based remote console session and a hardware-based remote console session.

18. The computer system of claim 14, wherein the means for providing further comprises:

an application-specific integrated circuit; and

a memory coupled to the application-specific integrated circuit.

19. The computer system of claim 18, wherein the memory enables data transfer between the computer system and the means for providing.

20. The computer system of claim 14, wherein the means for providing:
ascertains availability of the default remote console session;
ensures the coupling of the computer system and the means for providing;
disables the non-default remote console session; and
enables the default remote console session.